

# K-12 FIELD TRIPS GUIDE



**Galiano  
Conservancy**  
ASSOCIATION

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[www.galianoconservancy.ca](http://www.galianoconservancy.ca)

# ABOUT



The **Galiano Conservancy Association** (GCA for short) is a community-based, environmental non-profit organization and a registered charity (BN886092998 RR0001) based on Galiano Island, BC.

## OUR WORK

The GCA is dedicated to: land and marine protection, conservation, ecological restoration, sustainable food and energy production and environmental education.

**Our hands-on, nature-based programs have proudly been developed over 20+ years.** Programs serve to introduce youth to nature in a fun, safe and meaningful way. Our activities are designed to reflect the BC K-12 curriculum, resonate local Indigenous voices and foster youth environmental leadership.

*"Students loved the whole experience. I had students tell me this was the best field trip they've ever been on and many are already asking when they can come back. Thank you for such a well organized, educational and fun two days!"*

Joanna Linger, Teacher at  
Claremont Secondary School  
Returning since 2017



*"Your infectious enthusiasm has developed caring, passionate and educated individuals who are able to make educated decisions about local environments. You have inspired yet another class to become involved in their own community."*

Mike Bobbitt, Teacher at  
Edward Milne Community School  
Returning since 2005



## WHAT TEACHERS & STUDENTS SAY

*"You guys were great! You were interested in my questions and you taught me great new things!"*

Isabella, Age 13



## EDUCATION CONTACT

Office (Mon-Fri 9:30AM-4PM): 250-539-2424  
Email: [bookings@galianoconservancy.ca](mailto:bookings@galianoconservancy.ca)

## FOLLOW US



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The 188-acre **Millard Learning Centre**, our home base on Galiano Island, is where our *Renewable Energy in Action*, *Food Forest Wonderland*, *Native Plant Inspirations* and *Overnight* field trips take place. Education groups can choose from two quiet and private campgrounds when sleeping overnight.

## VISIT & LEARN

### FIELD TRIP LOCATIONS

Our field trips take place on the unceded, asserted territory of the Penelakut, Lamalcha, Hwlitsum, other Hul'qumi'num-speaking and SENĆOŦEN-speaking Peoples and on the ceded, asserted territory of the Tsawwassen First Nation.

It is because of the love, respect and stewardship of the land over thousands of years by generations of Coast Salish Peoples that the place we now refer to as "Galiano Island" continues to have abundant wild spaces and a healthy diversity of local flora and fauna to this day.

# FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

Choose from eight highly customizable field trip options. We are open to adjusting activities to your learning needs. Let us know what learning take-aways from your field trip you're aiming for!

**More info here:** <https://galianoconservancy.ca/education/youth-programs/>

## THEME / TOPIC

### PROGRAM NAME & LOCATION

### RECOMMENDED GRADES

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

#### Marine Biology

Marine  
Investigations  
Single Day  
Montague Provincial Park

K - 12

Grab your specimen buckets to discover the amazing adaptations of rocky shore intertidal creatures and learn about the rich cultural history of the oldest protected marine park in BC.

#### Forest Ecology & Restoration

Coastal Forests of  
Pebble Beach  
Single Day  
Pebble Beach Reserve

4 - 12

How do mature forests combat climate change? Pull a tree down with your bare hands as a part of our 10+ year forest thinning restoration project, plus lunch at beautiful Pebble Beach!

Quest for the  
Mountain Top  
Single Day  
Mount Galiano

4 - 12

Soak up breathtaking views on top of Mount Galiano's peak, learn about species at risk and help restore endangered Garry Oak meadows by removing invasive plants.

#### Sustainable Food Systems

Native Plant  
Inspirations  
Single Day  
Millard Learning Centre

K - 12

Tune into your senses and learn how to identify, harvest and use local native plants for food and medicines. Take home samples of what you make.

Food Forest  
Wonderland  
Single Day  
Millard Learning Centre

K - 12

Get your hands dirty at the Conservancy's Food Forest while engaging in permaculture gardening, hot composting and pollinator habitat protection.

#### Energy and Climate

Renewable Energy in  
Action  
Single Day  
Millard Learning Centre

4 - 12

Experiment with solar and wind renewable energy technologies, analyze your personal energy habits and learn how energy relates to ecosystem health and climate change.

#### Outdoor Skills

Backcountry  
Experience  
Single Day or Overnight  
Millard Learning Centre &  
mid-island protected network

4 - 12

Step into Galiano's wilderness and unveil the mysteries of rare Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems as you master the basics of hiking, camping and outdoor survival.

Build your Own Overnight  
Experience  
Overnight  
Millard Learning Centre +

Variable

Designed for the undecided! Mix and match different programs and sleep overnight at the Millard Learning Centre's Frontcountry or Backcountry Campgrounds.



# TRAVEL INFORMATION



**BC FERRIES**

Get to Galiano Island easily with BC Ferries. We're a short 1-1.5 hour trip from the Tsawwassen ferry terminal in Vancouver or the Swartz Bay ferry terminal in Victoria.

## FERRY SCHEDULES & SERVICE NOTICES

Ferries can travel to multiple Gulf Islands within one trip. You may be required to transfer boats during your sailing. **Review your ferry schedule and check for service notices before you travel** here: <https://www.bcferrries.com/routes-fares/schedules>

## TICKET RESERVATIONS

**It is your responsibility for booking and paying for ferry tickets.** Reservations can be made for Tsawwassen - Gulf Islands ferry travel but cannot be made for Swartz Bay - Gulf Islands ferry travel.

Book vehicle and foot-passenger tickets here: <https://www.bcferrries.com/>

## FARES & DISCOUNTS

**Ferry fares are not included in GCA program fees.** Students can travel for free between Swartz Bay and Galiano and at a special reduced rate from Tsawwassen to Galiano. Not a student? No problem! Groups over 10 also receive special discounts.

More Info: <https://www.bcferrries.com/routes-fares/ferry-fares>

## STOWED LUGGAGE

Excess luggage can be stowed below deck on the Tsawwassen - Southern Gulf Island route. The luggage cart does not come off the ferry at the Sturdies Bay terminal. **Remove your stowed bags from the luggage cart before disembarking.**



**TRANSPORTATION ON GALIANO**

## GCA SCHOOL BUS

There is no public transportation or taxi service on Galiano Island. You can bring your own vehicle(s) or ride along in the GCA school bus.

Our bus will meet you at the Sturdies Bay ferry terminal on Galiano and bring you to your field trip location at a flat rate roundtrip cost.

The GCA bus has capacity for ~36-45 passengers (maximum 3 to a seat). Seating may be reduced if your passengers are larger in stature or you have camping gear.

## Q: CAN I BIKE TO MY FIELD TRIP LOCATION?

A: Galiano's roads are very hilly with no shoulder and most field trip locations are 10km+ from the ferry. For this reason, we do not recommend biking.



# OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

## CAMP AT THE MILLARD LEARNING CENTRE

Sleep under the stars at our quiet and private 188-acre home base, the Millard Learning Centre. Choose from two sites: the deluxe Frontcountry campground or the rustic Backcountry campground.

Both campgrounds are tent-only on well-defined platforms and have fresh water, a picnic area, outhouses and a firepit. Plus both sites have access to Chrystal Cove Beach on the Learning Centre property. More Info: <https://galianoconservancy.ca/education/mlc-facilities/>

## FRONTCOUNTRY CAMPGROUND

This "glamp"-site is right next to our Classroom building, where you have access to a full kitchen, showers, flush toilets and wifi. The Classroom has an open dining hall that can also be slept in if you don't want to sleep outside. **Campground capacity: 50 campers or 20 tents.**



BACKCOUNTRY CAMPGROUND RAISED TENT PLATFORMS



CLASSROOM AT FRONTCOUNTRY CAMPGROUND



## BACKCOUNTRY CAMPGROUND

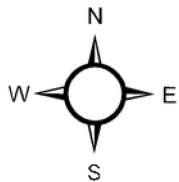
Teach essential wilderness camping skills to your students at our secluded Backcountry campground. This site is perfect for: Scouts/Guides, Duke of Ed. award-seekers, Outdoor Education students, and groups looking for an economical place to stay on Galiano. **Campground capacity 36 campers or 12 tents.**

## CAMPING GEAR RENTALS

Don't have camping gear? We rent tents, sleeping bags, sleeping mats and headlamps. We have enough gear to sleep 32 individuals comfortably with 2-4 people to a tent.







# Millard Learning Centre

Partial trail closures during education programs.  
Check signage at GCA Office upon arrival.

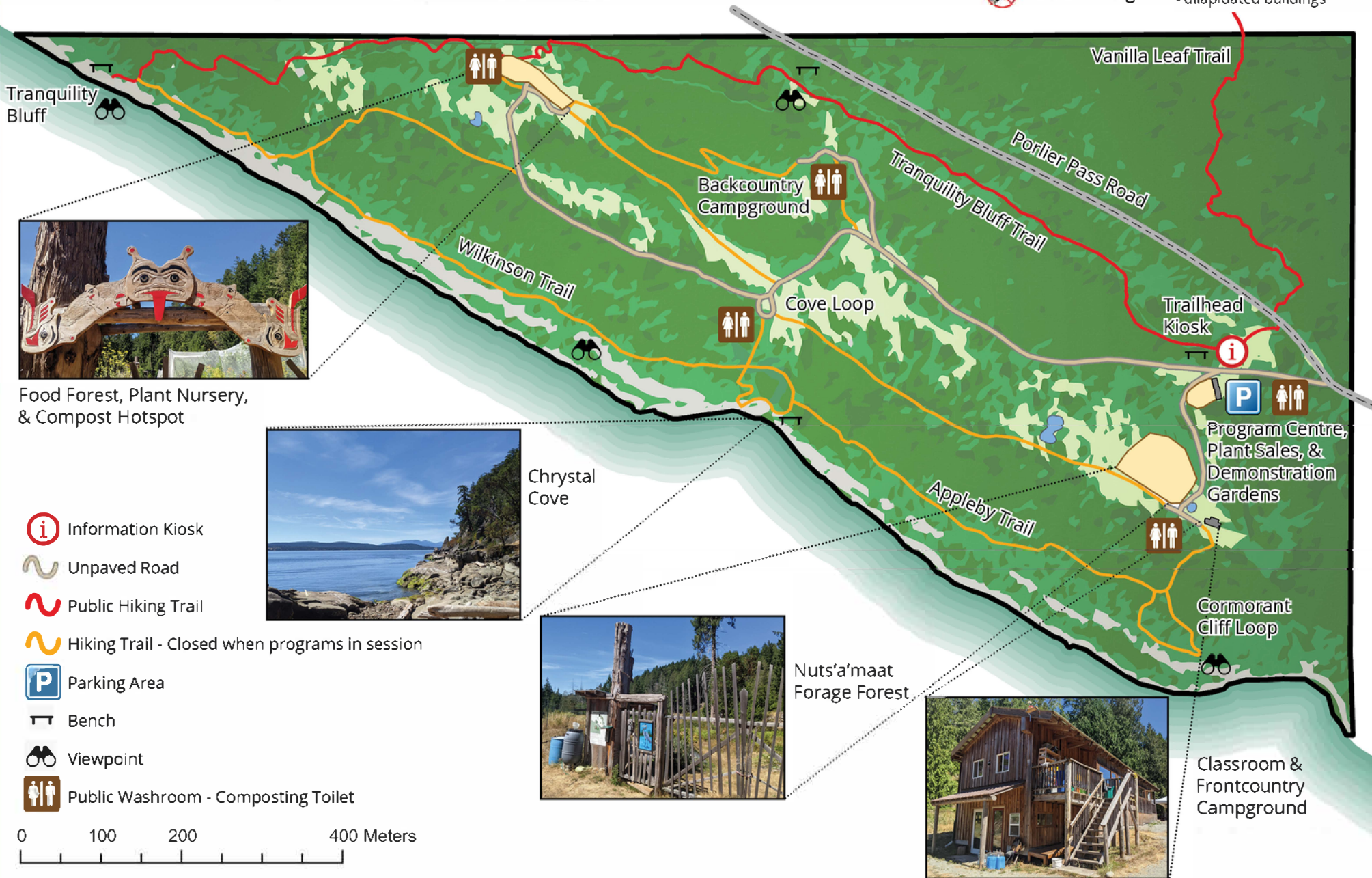
- No fires
- No Hunting or Fishing
- Dogs on Leash
- No Smoking

This area contains natural and human hazards

Please stay on designated trails



Avoid  
- steep slopes & cliffs  
- dilapidated buildings



# WHAT TO EXPECT ON GALIANO

## WEATHER

**Be prepared - field trips happen rain or shine!** Bring lots of warm layers, sun protection, and extra clothes in case you get wet. In dangerous conditions (high winds) we will stop programming and seek shelter. If you are staying overnight at the Millard Learning Centre, you will have access to shelter inside the Classroom building. **High winds may result in ferry delays or cancellations.** If you are unable to leave Galiano Island due to weather, you will have access to overnight accommodations at the Millard Learning Centre at no additional charge.

## WASHROOMS

**Some field trip locations do not have access to public washrooms.** In these instances, be prepared to use the forest as a washroom. Bring personal toilet-paper, hand sanitizer and a paper bag to pack away used toilet paper (we don't leave toilet paper in the woods because it takes YEARS to biodegrade). The Millard Learning Centre has flush toilets at the Frontcountry Campground and composting toilets at the Backcountry Campground, Chrystal Cove and Food Forest that are accessible during single day and overnight field trips. There are public toilets at the ferry dock.

## WATER

**Please bring at least 1 litre of water (even if this means you have to carry multiple water bottles)!** At most field trip locations, there are no chances to refill water bottles except for before we begin and when we end the day. Both Frontcountry and Backcountry campgrounds at the Millard Learning Centre have access to potable drinking water.

## FOOD

**The GCA does not provide food for field trips.** It is **students'** responsibility to bring lunch and snacks for single day field trips (or the first day of their field trip if overnight).

It is **adult chaperones'** responsibility to provide food for students during overnight trips. If you are participating in the **Overnight Backcountry Experience** field trip, students have the opportunity to pack and cook breakfasts, lunches and dinners for the duration of their stay instead of adults doing this.

## FIRES

**Campfires are restricted between April 1-June 30 and are prohibited between July 1-September 30.** We will provide Millard Learning Centre campers with a propane fire ring when campfires are not permitted. No cooking is allowed over the propane fire ring. **Due to fire risk smoking is prohibited on the Millard Learning Centre property at all times.**

## HIKING DIFFICULTY & ACCESSIBILITY

**Most field trips involve hiking along maintained forest and beach trails that range from easy to difficult in intensity.** The Millard Learning Centre's Classroom building and Frontcountry Campground are wheelchair accessible. Please contact us if you are concerned about physical fitness or have mobility limitations so that we can recommend the best field trip for you.



# SAFETY

## CHAPERONE RATIO

**We request that you provide 1 adult chaperone for every 10 youth in attending your field trip.** One GCA education staff member (or volunteer) will be present for every 15 youth in attendance.

## POLICE & VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECKS

**All GCA education staff members have completed police and vulnerable sectors checks.** We can provide you with a copy of police and vulnerable sectors documents upon request.

## FIRST AID

**At least one GCA education staff member facilitating your field trip is Wilderness First Aid and CPR-C certified.** They will carry a standard first aid kit and a cell phone to communicate with emergency services. We can provide you with a copy of first aid certifications upon request.

## SAFETY ORIENTATIONS

We begin all field trips with a safety orientation that informs participants on risks, what to do in an emergency situation and identifies the locations of safety equipment.

## EMERGENCIES

Galiano Island is a remote community with limited access to emergency services. We have one medical clinic (Galiano Healthcare Society), a local ambulance service, two volunteer fire departments and a RCMP office.

**What happens if my child/student gets hurt or sick on their field trip?** If your injury or illness is beyond GCA staff's scope of care, we will refer you to the Galiano Healthcare Society, or during the Clinic's afterhours contact the Doctor or Nurse on-call. Depending on the severity of your condition, you may need to be transported off Galiano. In all life-threatening instances, 911 will be called.

**I am a parent - Who do I call if I need to reach my child?** Always contact your child's adult trip leader first. If you cannot get a hold of them, call the GCA office at 250-539-2424 (office hours 9:30AM-4PM Monday-Friday) or Chessi Miltner (Executive Director) 250-222-2442 (afterhours and emergencies only) or email [bookings@galianoconservancy.ca](mailto:bookings@galianoconservancy.ca).

## SWIMMING

**Swimming is not allowed during program hours.** Swimming and engagement in other watersports afterhours is at your own risk. No lifeguard is on duty at the Millard Learning Centre or on other beaches on Galiano Island.

## FIELD TRIP FORMS

We will ask you to sign a sign safety acknowledgment and media release form before your fieldtrip.

## MORE SAFETY FAQs

Visit our FAQ page to read our safety measures, emergency protocols, emergency contact lists and view printable copies of field trip forms: <https://galianoconservancy.ca/education/faqs/>



# WHAT TO BRING

## DAY TRIPS

- Sturdy 2-strap day backpack
- Packed lunch and LOTS of snacks
- At least 1 litre of water [pack multiple water bottles if volume less than 1 litre]
- Personal medications [Epipen, insulin etc.]
- Face mask and personal hand sanitizer
- For "Forest Bathroom" use: toilet paper or tissues and a small paper bag to pack out used toilet paper.
- Sturdy, closed toe shoes [hiking boots or running shoes]
- Sun protection [sunscreen, hat, sunglasses]
- Clothing for rain or shine [warm base layers, wind protection]
- Extra clothes for the trip home in case you get dirty or wet
- Paper bag or other bag to pack out food waste, recycling & garbage
- Signed waivers and other forms
- Student ID for ferry travel

## OVERNIGHT TRIPS

In addition to the Day trips list, please bring:

- Separate bag to keep overnight gear [students will not have access to overnight gear until after field trip has finished]
- Tent
- Sleeping bag, sleeping mat
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Warm pajamas or thermal underlayers [sweatpants, long johns, sleeping sweaters]
- Thick sleeping socks and warm hat/toque
- Personal toiletries [toothbrush, toothpaste hair brush, deodorant etc.]
- Shower items (**Frontcountry Campground only**, no showers at Backcountry) [towel, soaps & shampoo, shower sandals]
- Small bag for caching animal attractants [food, beverages, "smelly" toiletries] inside Classroom building or closed vehicles

## PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ITEMS

- **Marine Programs** - water shoes, sturdy sandals (Crocs, Keens etc.) or rain boots. For safety reasons, flip flops are not allowed.
- **Overnight Backcountry Experience Program** Meal plan and food for your cooking group.

## OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Money for ferry food
- Swimsuit and beach towel for after program hours swimming [at your own risk, no supervision by GCA staff]
- Board games, cards, journal or drawing pad for afterhours/ ferry entertainment

## PLEASE DO NOT BRING

- Personal electronics [the GCA is not responsible for damage or loss of any personal gear]
- Alcohol or marijuana
- Smoking paraphernalia [cigarettes, vape pens etc.]
- Knives or weapons [adult supervisors - please speak with us if knives are being used as a learning tool outside of GCA program hours]



## TRIP LEADER PACKING LIST

In addition to day or overnight trip packing lists, adult trip leaders should bring:

- Ferry tickets for your group
- Standard First aid kit
- Emergency Cell Phone
- Signed GCA forms and rental agreements
- Cheque or credit card for final field trip payment
- For overnight trips - food for breakfast, lunch and dinner for your group



# FIELD TRIP FEES

## PROGRAM FEES

**\$32/student  
per day**

Min 10 students  
Max 30 students

Up to 5 adult  
chaperones included

## BUS FEES

**\$150/trip**

Point A to B  
Eg. Ferry terminal to  
Learning Centre

Max ~36-45  
passengers\*\*

## CAMPING FEES

**Frontcountry  
Campground** **\$380/night**

Max 20 tents or 50 campers

**Backcountry  
Campground** **\$150/night**

Max 12 tents or 36 campers

## GEAR RENTAL

**Tent** **\$20/tent**

**Sleeping Mat** **\$10/mat**

**Sleeping Bag** **\$15/bag**

**Headlamp** **\$5/lamp**

**Camping  
Combo** **\$40 per set**

*\* Additional adult chaperones charged the same program fees as students.*

*\*\* Bus capacity dependent on size of passengers (eg. small child or teen/adult) and amount of gear being transported.*

## BURSARIES

### FINANCIAL AID FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP

We strive to give everyone an equal opportunity to learn and play in nature. The **Environmental Education Bursary Fund** helps reduce program, bus and camping-related costs for K-12 school groups, youth organizations and individual youth participants in need of financial aid. Learn more and apply here: <https://galianoconservancy.ca/education/youth-programs/education-bursary-fund/>



## BOOK YOUR FIELD TRIP NOW

### THREE WAYS TO BOOK

**Fill out our online booking form**

[https://galianoconservancy.ca/  
education/field-trip-booking-  
request](https://galianoconservancy.ca/education/field-trip-booking-request)

**Call our Education Staff**

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Booking & cancellation policies: <https://galianoconservancy.ca/education/pricing/>



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